(c) The Central Electricity Authority has informed that the Electricity Consumers Advocate Committee (ECAC) has not approached them in the matter.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Fast-running electricity meters

4113. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electricity meters installed by the private power companies, particularly in Delhi, run very fast and register excess units of electicity, than actually utilized;

(b) if so, whether Government has received any complaints regarding this;

(c) if so, whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof, along with the action taken by Government against such complaints; and

(e) whether Government proposes to check the monopoly of private power distribution companies and their arbitrary behaviour, in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (e) Electricity is a concurrent subject. Distribution of electricity comes within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are regulated by the respective State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

In terms of Section 146 of the Electricity Act, 2003, any person including the DISCOMs is liable to be prosecuted for non-compliance with any order or direction given under the Act or for contravention or attempting or abetting the contravention of any other provisions of the Act or of any Rules or Regulations made thereunder.

Section 14 of the Electricity Act provides that the appropriate Electricity Regulatory Commission may grant a licence to two or more persons for distribution of electricity through their own distribution system within the same area, subject to specified conditions.

Section 55 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that no licensee shall supply electricity after the expiry of two years from the appointed date except through installation of a correct meter in accordance with the regulations to be made in this behalf by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). CEA has notified the Central Electricity Authority (Installation and Operation of Meters) Regulations, 2006 on 17.3.2006.

The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has informed that in recent years a number of meter testing drives have been conducted by the DISCOMs, the Government of NCT of Delhi and by the DERC, and the number of meters found to be running fast out of those tested was small. The SERC of Kerala has informed that no case of energy meter running fast has been received.

According to the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC), the joint inspection report of Government Electrical Inspector, consumer representatives and licensee of the digital meters installed by the licencee do not reveal that digital meters are unreliable.